



Report to the Auburn City Council

Action Item

14

Agenda Item No.

City Manager's Approval

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Mike Holmes, Councilmember
Date: July 8, 2013
Subject: Support Designation of Western States Trail as a National Historic Trail

The Issue

Shall the Council support the designation of the Western States Trail as a National Historic Trail?

Conclusion and Recommendation

By **RESOLUTION**, support the designation of the Western States Trail as a National Historic Trail and send the resolution and a cover letter to Representative McClintock.

Background

The Western States Trail starts at Squaw Valley and ends in Auburn, for a total length of 100 miles. The Trail is well known and nationally recognized both for its historic significance and for 2 endurance races: 1) The Western States Endurance Run and 2) The Tevis Cup Ride. Presently, the Western States Trail is designated a National Recreation Trail and this new designation would elevate the status of the Trail to be on par with other nationally recognized trails such as the Iditarod National Historic Trail and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

“Historic” designation has no regulatory implications over current or future land use. Some of the benefits of the designation, other than national recognition, will include the ability of private support foundations to expand their public outreach and opportunities to secure public support for trail maintenance operations.

The designation would occur after a study is completed, which validates the historic quality of the trail, and that the pattern of land ownership along the route ensures trail integrity. This study will jointly be prepared by the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Interior.

Currently, Placer County, El Dorado County and PCWA will be adopting resolutions of support to Senators Feinstein and Boxer's Bill S.60 and request Representative McClintock to introduce a companion bill in the House of Representatives.

Attachments

S60 Bill

Proposed Resolution

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 60

To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Western States Trail for potential designation as a national historic trail.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 2013

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Western States Trail for potential designation as a national historic trail.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Western States Na-
5 tional Historic Trail Study Act of 2013”.

1 SEC. 2. WESTERN STATES NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
2 STUDY.

3 Section 5(e) of the National Trails System Act (16
4 U.S.C. 1244(e)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(46) WESTERN STATES TRAIL.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Western States
8 Trail, a trail of approximately 100 miles from
9 Squaw Valley to Auburn, California (including
10 the Tevis Cup Loop)—

11 “(i) as displayed on the maps main-
12 tained in the office of the American River
13 District Ranger, Tahoe National Forest;

14 “(ii) as described in the journal of
15 Professor William Brewer for August 30,
16 1863; and

17 “(iii) along which are conducted—

18 “(I) the Western States Trail
19 Ride; and

20 “(II) the Western States Endur-
21 ance Run.

22 “(B) COMPONENTS.—The study under this
23 paragraph shall include a determination on
24 whether the trail is appropriate for designation
25 as a national historic trail.”.

○

1 RESOLUTION NO. 13-

2 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE WESTERN STATES NATIONAL HISTORIC
3 TRAIL

4 -----
5 THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUBURN DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the Western States Trail (with Tevis Cup Loop) extends 100 miles
8 in length from Squaw Valley to Auburn, California, passing though the Counties
9 of El Dorado and Placer; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Western States Trail initially came into being as a Native
11 American track and in the middle years of the nineteenth century developed
12 into the principal route of travel by foot and stock between the gold fields of
13 California and the silver fields of Nevada; and

14 **WHEREAS**, William Brewer in his Journal ("Up and Down California") for
15 August 30, 1863 describes his travel from Squaw Valley to Foresthill along the
16 Western State Trail, including the route now known as the Tevis Cup Loop; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The Western States Trail today largely retains its single-track
18 character as it was used in the nineteenth century, remaining the most intact
19 historic trans-Sierra crossing, unaffected by the presence of roads or railroads;
20 and

21 **WHEREAS**; the portion of the Western State Trail from Last Chance to
22 Michigan Bluff has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places in the
23 United States; and

24 **WHEREAS**; The Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge ("No Hands Bridge") that
25 carries the Western States Trail across the Middle Fork of the American River,
26 boundary between the Counties of Placer and El Dorado, has been listed in the
27 National Register of Historic Places in the United States; and
28

1 **WHEREAS;** the Western State Trail embraces the dramatic natural and
2 cultural history of the entire watershed of the Middle Fork of the American
3 River; and

4 **WHEREAS;** in 1931 Placer County Constable Robert Montgomery Watson
5 located and marked the Western State Trail; in 1955 the Western States Trail
6 became the route of the world's first and premiere 100-mile endurance trail
7 ride, the Western States (Tevis Cup) Trail ride; and in 1974 the Western States
8 Trail became the route of the world's first and premiere 100-mile endurance
9 run, the Western States Endurance Run; and

10 **WHEREAS;** The Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, in the respective areas
11 of responsibility have designated the entire length of the Western States Trail
12 as a National Recreation Trail; and

13 **WHEREAS,** designation of the Western States National Historic Trail conveys
14 no regulatory implications over future federal land use and has no effect on
15 current authorized federal projects, to include the Auburn Dam.

16 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,**

17 1) That the City Council of the City of Auburn, California, hereby express its
18 support for legislation leading to designation by Act of Congress of the Western
19 States Trail (with Tevis Cup Loop), as a National Historic Trail, as defined in
20 Section 1244 of Title 16 of the United States Code; and

21 2) This Council urges the Congress of the United States, through its California
22 delegation, to enact such legislation, authorization, and appropriations as may
23 be necessary to secure the inclusion of the Western States Trail in the National
24 Historic Trail System; and

25 3) This Council authorized the Mayor to communicate with this resolution and
26 letter of support to Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer, and Representative
27 McClintock.

28

1 DATED: July 8, 2013

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3
4 Kevin Hanley, Mayor

5 ATTEST:

6
7 Stephanie L. Snyder, City Clerk

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9 I, Stephanie L. Snyder, City Clerk of the City of Auburn, hereby certify
10 that the foregoing resolution was duly passed at a regular meeting of the City
11 Council of the City of Auburn held on the 8th day of July, 2013 by the
12 following vote on roll call:

12 Ayes:

13 Noes:

14 Absent:

15 Stephanie L. Snyder, City Clerk